


September 14, 1984

TO: File

FROM: Thomas N. Tetting, Geologist 

RE: Inspection of the Bicentennial-Thornburg Memorial Mine and Associated Exploration, Cotter Corporation, ACT/019/006 and EXP/019/012, Grand County, Utah

On August 24, 1984, Tom Tetting and Jim Smith from the Division met with Bill Hester representing the Cotter Corporation at the Bicentennial-Thornburg Memorial Mine for the purpose of inspecting the interim stabilization work performed recently. Drill sites in the upper region of the box canyon, below the north side of the pour-off were also examined.

A concern of the Division after the mine site was visited last year was the waste dump material which was encroaching on the stream channel. Work has been performed which reestablished this channel and confirmation of Cotter's May 1, 1984 summary letter has been made.

Additionally, the following items are mentioned for future reference:

1. The main office and workshop area which burned down last winter has been replaced by a smaller more temporary structure on the original foundation.
2. The stream channel, east of the shop area has advanced toward the access road. Remaining fence posts make excellent visual indicators of the amount of erosion taking place. Five to six feet have easily disappeared. Waste rock is dumped in place to maintain some semblance of a dike, but apparently it is washed away during each rain storm. The most recent storms (several during the previous week) provided good evidence of the amount of erosive force which can be expected from average storm events.
3. Cotter Corporation may be planning to close the mine down entirely by 1985 and will contact the Division for a final reclamation advisory meeting.

The exploration sites and roads have not all been reclaimed. Many pads from 1981-83 have been reseeded, however, the access up the canyon has been left alone. In general, the natural erosion occurring along these side slopes has been

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quite effective in removing many, but not all traces of man's intrusion. What appears to be happening is that incomplete reclamation is being performed naturally. The company may be able to argue in the future that to perform additional reclamation will undo that which has already been done. It may be a question which the Division will need to resolve at a later date. Some crested wheat was observed to have germinated on some drill pads, halogeton and Russian thistle were profuse.

A recheck of the drill sites which were visited last year was not performed, but should be; perhaps in 1985 when the mine site is being reclaimed.

The company should be advised to use large boulders to riprap the access road outslope instead of waste rock.

btb
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